

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended herein.

Claims 1-3, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 0 917 096 (Kawanabe et al.). Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under § 102 as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 0 775 587 (Hackleman). Claims 4, 9-12 and 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kawanabe et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,634,730 (Bobry) and U.S. Patent No. 5,293,319 (DeSha et al.). Claim 13 was rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Kawanabe et al. in view of Bobry and DeSha et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,923,820 (Cunnagin et al.). Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Kawanabe et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,447,085 (Yagi et al.). Because Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the § 102 rejection of those claims is deemed moot. As to the remaining claims, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a printing apparatus for printing on a printing medium using a printhead. The apparatus includes an interface, a memory, discriminating means, confirmation means, write control means and printing control means. The interface is connected to a host and receives

information from the host. The memory stores characteristic information of the printhead. The discriminating means discriminates whether or not a command sent from the host based on information inputted to the host from any of a plurality of input means is a command including the characteristic information of the printhead. The confirmation means confirms whether or not the command including the characteristic information of the printhead discriminated by the discriminating means is valid. The write control means controls to write the characteristic information of the printhead into the memory in a case that the confirmation means confirms that the command is valid. The printing control means controls the printhead to print in accordance with the characteristic information written into the memory.

With the above arrangement, the printing apparatus can prevent characteristic information of a printhead currently stored in a memory from being overwritten by invalid characteristic information of the printhead sent from a host, thus maintaining a proper printing operation. Current independent Claim 1 recites that the confirmation means confirms whether or not the command including characteristic information of the printhead discriminated by the discriminating means is valid. Thus, if it is discriminated that a command sent from the host is not a command including characteristic information of the printhead, there is no recitation that the confirmation means confirms the validity of that command. Avoiding such confirmation is desired since such a command sent from the host does not affect rewriting characteristic information of the printhead currently stored in a memory. Regardless of whether characteristic

information of a printhead is currently stored in a memory or is to be stored in a memory, validity of the information is always assured.

The printer of Kawanabe et al. includes a memory for storing a printer profile parameter. The profile information can be outputted from the image printing device to a host computer upon request, and the host computer utilizes the printhead profile information to produce compensation parameters to be sent from the host computer to the printhead for printing. As understood by Applicants, Kawanabe et al. discloses a technique for updating printhead information in a printer in a case where a command from the host computer includes characteristic information of a printhead. However, Kawanabe et al. does not disclose or suggest discriminating means for discriminating whether or not a command sent from the host is a command including characteristic information of the printhead, and confirming whether or not the command including the characteristic information of the printhead discriminated by the discriminating means is valid, as is recited in independent Claim 1. Rather, according to Applicants, in Kawanabe et al. as long as it is discriminated that the command includes characteristic information of a printhead, regardless of whether or not the command is valid, the information currently stored in a memory is rewritten by newly received information from the host. In such a scenario, original valid information might be replaced by invalid new information. Validity of the stored information cannot be assured.

Thus, Kawanabe et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Hackleman, Bobry, DeSha et al., Cunnagin et al. and Yagi et al. have also been reviewed, but are not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Kawanabe et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-20 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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